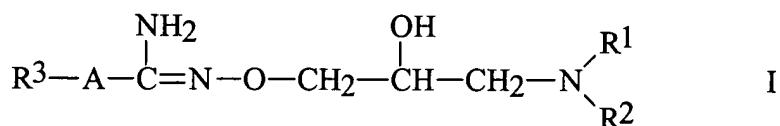


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for preventing ~~or treating~~ actinic keratosis comprising applying to the affected skin surface an amount of a composition effective for preventing ~~or treating~~ actinic keratosis, said composition comprising a hydroximic acid derivative of the formula



wherein

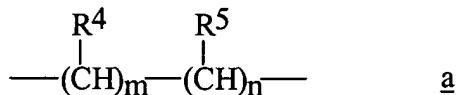
$R^1$  is a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl group;

$R^2$  is a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl group or a phenyl group, optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a phenyl group; or

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5 to 8 membered saturated or unsaturated ring that optionally comprises one or more further nitrogen or oxygen atoms, wherein said ring can be optionally condensed with a benzene ring;

$R^3$  is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group or a pyridyl group wherein said groups can optionally be substituted by one or more halo atoms or  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy groups;

$A$  is a group of the formula



wherein

$R^4$  is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

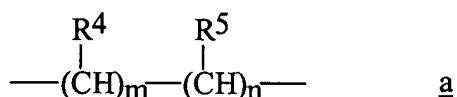
$R^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

$m$  has a value of 0, 1 or 2; and

$n$  has a value of 0, 1 or 2;

or a physiologically acceptable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in the compound of the formula (I)  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino group,  $R^3$  is a pyridyl or a phenyl group,  $A$  represents a group of the formula a,



wherein

$R^4$  is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

$R^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

and m and n have a value of 0.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is O-(3-piperidino-2-hydroxy-1-propyl)nicotinic amidoxime or an acid salt thereof.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is present at 0.1 to 30% by mass of the composition.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

7. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

8 - 14. (canceled)